

Submitted Testimony in opposition to HB477 – David Cooper

Mister Chairman, Members of the Committee. My name is David Cooper of Jefferson City, and I am here speaking on behalf of the 70% of Montanans who believe that they have the right to seek a reasonable end should they be faced with intolerable suffering.

I do not believe that you would seek action to prevent a physician from providing medication to relieve a patient's pain. Why would you limit doctors' options in situations when the patient and medical science have reached their limits?

No one would suggest that any physician should be required to provide this service, nor that any patient be required to take it. It's a choice everyone should be free to make. The state should not be in the business of taking away the patient's "right to privacy" when determining their best medical option. I would ask you to consider what you would say if your best friend who did not share the beliefs of the proponents were faced with this situation and was denied the choice because of the passing of this bill.

If elder abuse is truly your concern, please support Rep. Funk's bill proposing harsher penalties for those committing elder abuse. Forcing dying people to suffer longer than they wish to is elder abuse; Aid in Dying is compassion and honoring the patient's wishes.

The people of Montana urge you to honor the individual rights of the terminally ill by rejecting HB477. Thank you.
